



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

*Stated Meeting, October 3, 1862.*

Present, thirteen members.

Judge SHARSWOOD, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter transmitting a donation for the Library was received from the Royal Academy at Madrid, dated January 1st, 1862.

Donations to the Library were received from the London Geographical, Geological, and Antiquarian Societies; Society of Arts and Institutions in Union; Dr. Edward Jarvis of Dorchester, Mass., and Prof. A. D. Bache.

Donations for the Cabinet were received from Prof. Bache, and Capt. Thomas Y. Field, U. S. Marine Corps.

The committee to which was referred the manuscripts of the late President of the Society, Peter C. Duponceau, presented by his granddaughter, reported, recommending that these manuscripts be carefully preserved in the Library of the Society.

Obituary notices of Professor Tucker and of G. W. Beethune, D.D., were read by Dr. Dunglison.

#### OBITUARY NOTICE OF PROF. GEORGE TUCKER.

Professor George Tucker was born in Bermuda in the year 1775. He came to this country when about twelve years of age, to be educated under the superintendence of his relative, Judge St. George Tucker, who was Professor of Law in the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and was the father of Judge Beverly Tucker, afterwards Professor of Law in the same college, and of Judge Henry St. George Tucker, Professor of Law in the University of Virginia, and author of Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia. Professor Tucker's collegiate education was at the College of William and Mary, after which he studied law, and practised his profession in Richmond, and afterwards at Pittsylvania and in Lynchburg, and for a considerable distance around, with great success. He was elected to the Legislature of Virginia from Pittsylvania, and in 1819, whilst a resident of Lynchburg, was chosen member of Congress to represent the district composed of the counties of Pittsylvania, Halifax, and Campbell. He was in Richmond at the time of the terrible sacrifice of life by the burning of the Theatre in 1811, and from a falling

A communication for the Transactions was presented by the Secretary, entitled "Intellectual Symbolism," by Pliny Chase, of Philadelphia, which was on motion referred to a committee, consisting of Dr. Goodwin, Rev. Mr. Barnes, and Professor Coppée.

Professor Bache described a model, which he presented to the Society, as the ingenious workmanship of Mr. Engle in the office of the United States Coast Survey. "The surface of the plaster model was designed to illustrate the diurnal variation of the magnetic declination, and its annual irregularity, as found in the discussion of the magnetic observations at Girard College, Philadelphia, 1840 to 1845, Part II. It is intended to make similar models for the horizontal and vertical forces."

Dr. Franklin Bache made some remarks on the discovery of the new metal thallium.

Dr. Harris exhibited the skull of the *Buceros scutatus*, or Helmet Hornbill of India, upon the frontal plate of which had been carved a beautiful Chinese intaglio by an artist in Canton. The specimen presented was obtained from the male bird, the head of which is of the same character with, but larger than that of the female, presenting a larger frontal space, and therefore more highly valued. The bird is a species of raven, quite common in India. It is not at all well proportioned, having a large head, thick neck, long body and tail, and somewhat short legs. Its neck is bare of plumage, and its head also, except at the occiput. Its prevailing color is black. Like the other *Buceri*, it presents a large protuberance on the top of its head, which is hollow, and has no connection with the cranial cavity. This eminence presents none of the characteristic features of bone, and is remarkable for the extreme thickness of its frontal plate and its ivory-like formation. It is of a light nankeen-yellow color.

A few years ago it was discovered in China that the skull of this bird might be used for ornamental purposes, and plates of it carved to represent flowers, and then rendered translucent by some chemical process, were set as breastpins and bracelets and sold to a few foreign residents in Canton. Some of these articles were sent out to this country, and were shown by Dr. Harris to several members of this Society and of the Academy of Natural Sciences, all of whom doubted the correctness of the Chinese statement that they were made from portions of a bird's head, and one, without any hesitation, pronounced

it a deception, and said that he knew of no bird in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences upon whose head such carvings could be executed. To satisfy these gentlemen of the correctness of his statement, Dr. Harris sent an order to the artist in Canton, and, after waiting about a year and a half, had the pleasure of receiving the skull carved as here exhibited, a convincing proof that the Chinese are sometimes honest in their representations, and do even at the present day make new discoveries. So rare are these carvings, that very few of our residents in China have ever seen them, or even know of their existence, and it is believed that but two or three persons in America have as yet come into possession of the jewelry made from them. The skull, as exhibited, is no doubt the only specimen of the kind in existence, and shows the character of the material of which the carvings are made, as no clarifying process has been used to change its natural appearance.

Whether any other of the Buceri have ivory-like plates of the same character and equal thickness, Dr. Harris is unable to state. Some of them have very large and peculiarly shaped yellow-colored protuberances on their heads; but many of these are quite thin. In others the "horn," as it is called, is exceedingly light, and composed of true bone, covered with a thin, horny plate, as in the Buceros buccinator. The Helmet Hornbill, it is believed, is not found in China, but is imported from India, Americans long resident in the former country having never seen it. It may possibly exist in the southernmost part of the empire, or may migrate thither in the hot season.

The material of which this carving is made is very brittle, and can only be cut during the damp, rainy season. It is no doubt this fragility which has caused the artist to toughen them by chemical clarification, in order to preserve them when worn as ornaments.

Pending nominations Nos. 456 to 465 were read.

Judge King offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: That the Vice-President of the Society now presiding, the Hon. George Sharswood, be authorized to represent the Society to sign and execute all the powers and procurations necessary to preserve and obtain the legacy given to the Society by André François Michaux, and to constitute Mon. Germain, notary at Pontoise, the agent and attorney of the Society for that purpose.

And the Society was adjourned.